

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

NR Eligible: yes _____
no X

Property Name: Global Messenger/First National B Inventory Number: B-3637

Address: 1821 Washington Boulevard City: Baltimore Zip Code: _____

County: Baltimore City USGS Topographic Map: Baltimore West

Owner: R.E.L. Properties, LLC

Tax Parcel #: _____ Tax parcel Map Number: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____

Project: MARC Maintenance Facility/Electrification of the P Agency: MTA

Site visit by staff X no _____ yes _____ Name: _____ Date: _____

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Is the property located within a historic district? no yes Name of District: _____

Is district listed? X no _____ yes _____ District Inventory Number: _____

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

MHT Library - MIHP Form

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Global Messenger building was constructed in two phases. The rear portion was built in 1946 and the front portion, nearest to Washington Boulevard, was added in c. 1950. Both portions are constructed of concrete block on a steel frame with red brick veneer. The building is one story and narrow, stretching to the southeastern end of the lot. For more information on this building, refer to the MIHP Form.

Prepared by: _____ Date Prepared: _____

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria A B C D Considerations A B C D E F G None

MHT Comments:

poor integrity

C. Andrew Lewis

November 28, 2001

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

200103751 #2

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-3637

1. Name of Property Global Messenger

historic First National Bank
other First National Bank of Maryland

2. Location

street and number 1821 Washington Boulevard not for publication
city, town Baltimore vicinity
county

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name R.E.L. Properties, LLC
street and number 1821 Washington Blvd
city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21230

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber folio
city, town tax map tax parcel tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count		
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary

The Global Messenger building was constructed in two phases. The rear portion was built in 1946 and the front portion, nearest to Washington Boulevard, was added in c. 1950. Both portions are constructed of concrete block on a steel frame with red brick veneer. The building is one story and narrow, stretching to the southeastern end of the lot.

Description

Built c. 1946, the Global Messenger building is a one-story rectilinear building that faces southwest to a narrow parking lot. Across this lot is the Global Textiles Mill Outlet (B-4005) and to the east is the B. Green Wholesale Foods Warehouse (B-5059). To the northeast, the building abuts the Baltimore Beef and Poultry Company Warehouse. The westernmost portion of the Global Messenger building stands slightly taller than the rear portion. It is believed that the lower portion is the original building dating from c. 1946 and that the front portion was added soon after the initial construction as indicated in a 1951 Sanborn map. Both portions are of steel frame construction with concrete block infill and a red brick veneer. Brick courses are arranged in a 5-course American bond pattern.

The rear section has a flat roof with a slight parapet wall coped with glazed terra cotta tile. Windows appear to be replacements for were probably steel frame industrial sash windows. There are five on the southwest (main) façade which are now metal framed windows with fixed sashes containing 18 panes each. The center window is slightly longer and contains 24 panes. Windows on the rear of the building, facing southeast, are similar in form and materials. Also on this façade is a truck bay with a roll-up metal door. The northeast façade is blocked by the construction of the Baltimore Beef and Poultry Company's warehouse, which either directly abuts or shares part of this wall. There is a brick smokestack on this portion of the building toward the southeast end.

The northwest façade, which faces Washington Boulevard, is part of the c. 1950 addition. This part of the building has a flat roof with a slight concrete eave. The entrance, located on the southwest façade, is through a slightly recessed metal door with large transom and decorative brick surround. The door is flanked by paired spandrel glass windows with translucent light blue upper panes. This window type is repeated on the northwest façade, where five spandrel glass windows are banked together to occupy most of the wall space.

The windows are surrounded by concrete bands, which act as lintels and sills. On the southwest façade, one of these bands extends over the doorway as well. The only other decorative feature is a row of soldier bricks beneath the concrete window frames on the southwest façade. Two narrow vertical windows are located towards the south end of the c. 1951 portion of the building. These windows likely represent the location of interior restrooms. Together the two halves of the Global Messenger building encompass 5,040 square feet of space on a 14,485 square foot parcel of land.

8. Significance

Inventory No. B-3637

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Original block c. 1946, with c. 1951 addition

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register☐ Maryland Register☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary

Although the Global Messenger building was originally constructed as a sales and service building for a agricultural machinery manufacturer, it was used for many years as a bank. Its original design and materials reflect its industry-related function, while alterations indicate its modification for bank use. The building currently houses Global Messenger.

Significance

The Global Messenger building was constructed around 1946 by the J. I. Case Company, manufacturers or distributors of farm equipment. The 1951 Sanborn map indicates that the front portion of the building served as a store while the rear portion was a warehouse. The Case Company also constructed the building to the immediate southwest, at 1835 Washington Boulevard. By 1951, the company was using this larger building as its Agricultural Implements Sales and Service Building. It is speculated that the company outgrew the smaller Global Messenger building and moved into the larger one, which directly abuts the B&O Rail line with loading docks along the track for easy shipping and receiving of large equipment.

The Global building is located in Baltimore's Downtown Industrial Area between Camden Yard to the east and Carroll Park to the west. Prior to the building's construction, the land was vacant. The lot was once part of the property of Charles Carroll, whose Mount Clare Mansion, a National Historic Landmark, is located about a quarter of a mile to the north. The land was used for agricultural purposes from at least 1760, when Mount Clare was constructed through the mid-19th century. At that time, this part of Baltimore began to develop as an industrial area, with associated worker housing. The founding of the B&O Railroad system started and anchored the industrialization of this area beginning in the 1830s.

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Continuation Sheet

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In around 1956, the building was occupied by the First National Bank, later the First National Bank of Maryland. The building continued to serve as a bank, possibly undergoing alteration to its fenestration in 1961. This alteration included the replacement of the industrial steel sash windows in the rear portion, and possibly in the front, and the insertion of spandrel glass. In 1995, the property was acquired by R.E.L. Properties, which either operates Global Messenger or leases the space to that business.

In terms of its architecture, the building was built with a fairly utilitarian design and little decoration. It adheres to the form follows function principle exhorting by American modern architects of the early 20th century. The front portion of the building, which was designed as a store for the J.I. Case Company has large window openings for the easy display of goods. The rear portion, which was acted as a warehouse was a simple structure with industrial sash windows and no ornamentation.

This building is a relatively uninteresting example of mid-century commercial architecture. Moreover, it has been significantly altered through the addition of the front half of the building and again by extensive window replacement. Neither the utilitarian form of the building, which is illustrative of its original industrial and retail uses, nor its materials make this building an outstanding example of the style particular to the 1940s and 1950s. The building is not distinctive for its architecture, and is not considered eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. No association with significant individuals or events was discovered in researching this property, making it ineligible under Criteria A and B. The Global Messenger building was not evaluated for significance under Criterion D for archaeology.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet 9.1

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 14,485 s.f.

Acreage of historical setting _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore West

Quadrangle scale: _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Anne O. Brockett, Architectural Historian		
organization	URS Corporation	date	3/15/01
street & number	200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101	telephone	(301) 670-5469
city or town	Gaithersburg	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-3637

Name
Continuation Sheet

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References

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Fishpaw, June M. "I Remember When...Pigs Were Driven through Baltimore's Streets." *Sun Magazine* 3 March 1968.

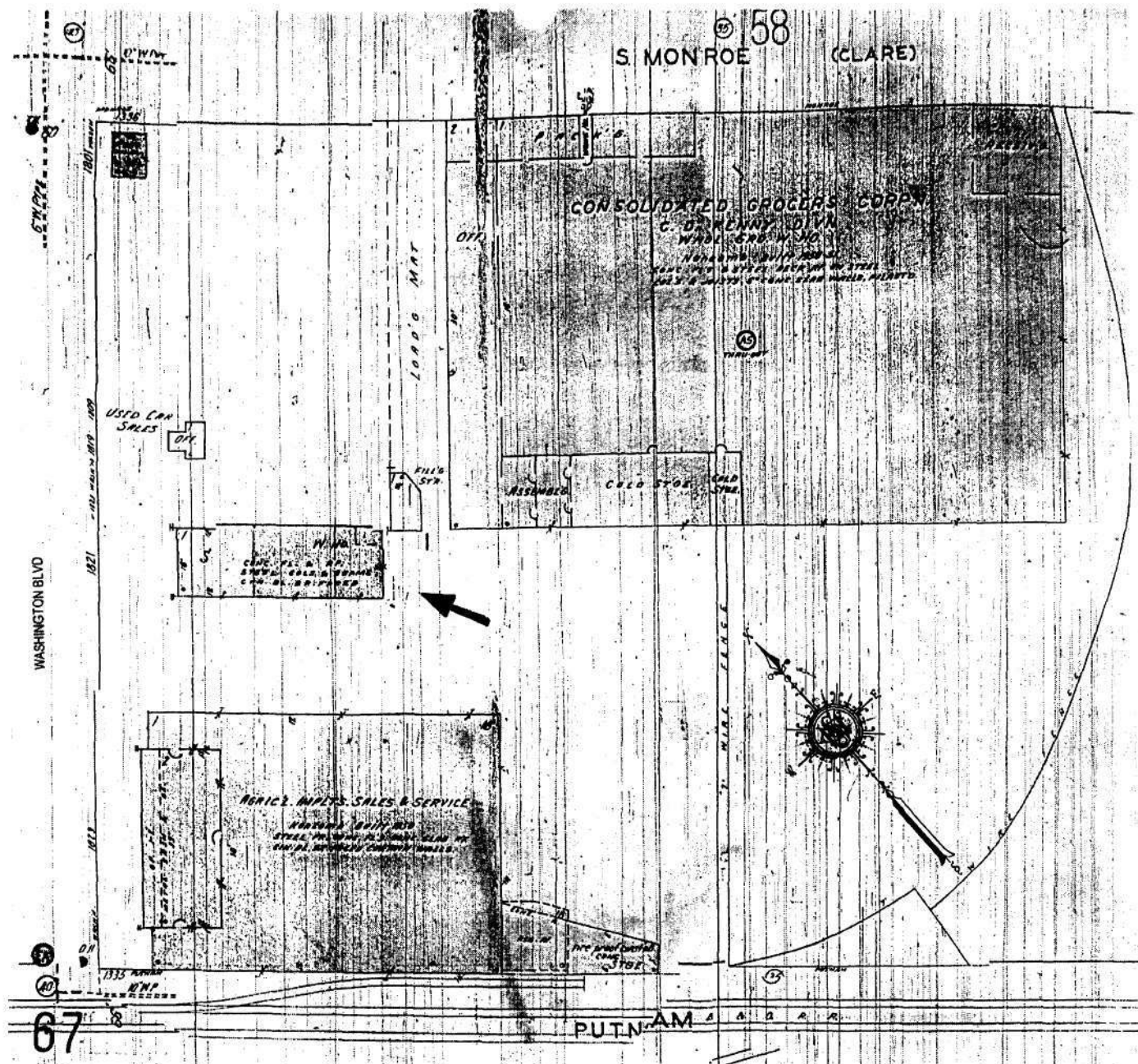
Miles, Priscilla. *Historic Baltimore: Twelve Walking Tours*. Baltimore: Priscilla Miles, 1987.

"Mount Clare Museum House." <http://users.erols.com/mountclaremuseumhouse/>

Polk's Baltimore (Maryland) City Directory, 1936-1958.

Reutter, Mark. "Pigtown, After 'Bad Times,' Cautiously Looks Toward Revival." *Baltimore Sun* 29 April 1978.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1901-1952.



PROJ MTA - MARC Maintenance Facility

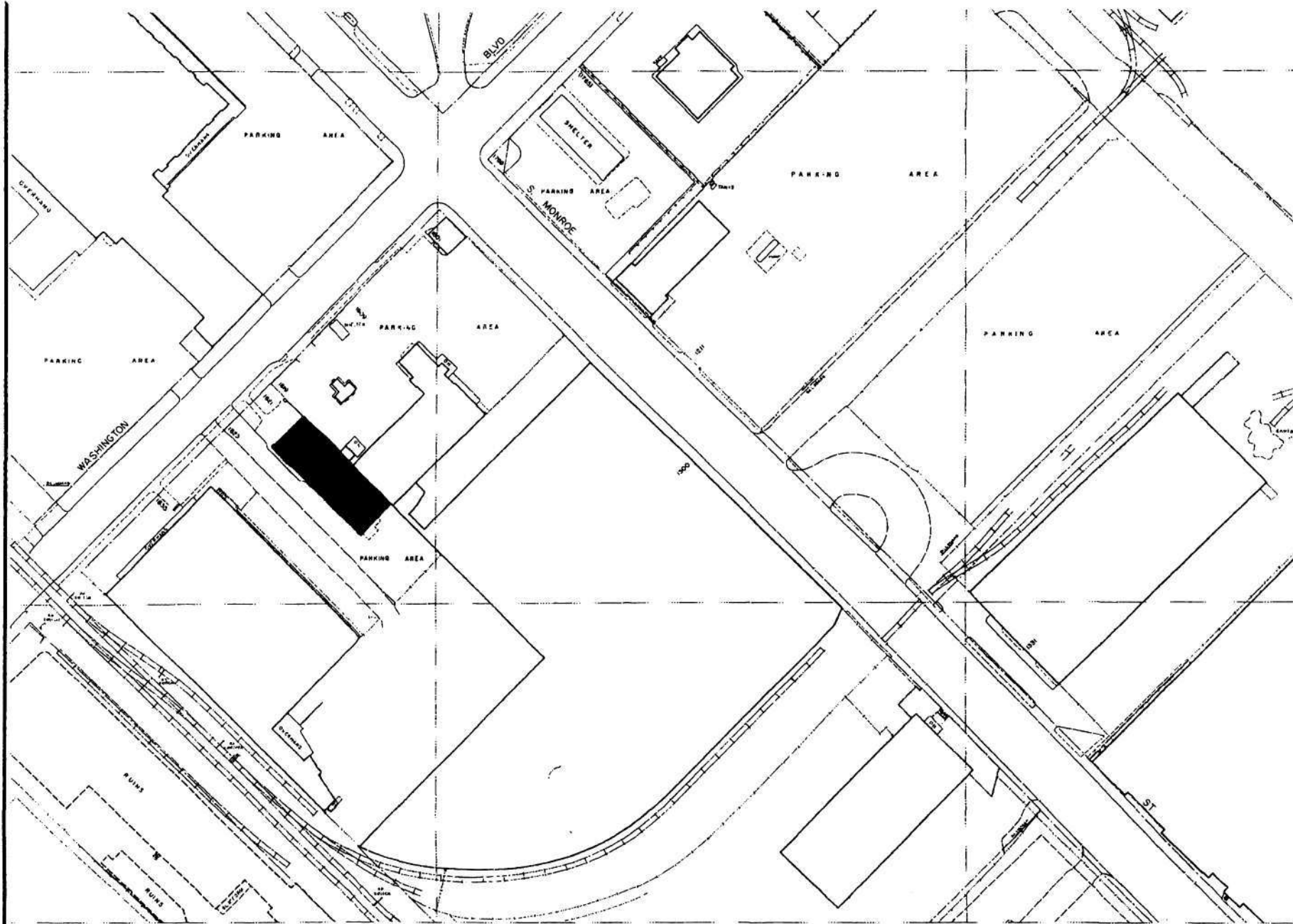
SCALE NOT TO SCALE

SOURCE Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, c. 1952

Global Messenger (formerly J.I. Case Co.)
1821 Washington Blvd. Baltimore, MD
c. 1952

URS

PROJ NO D1-00000996.03
INVENTORY NUMBER B-3637



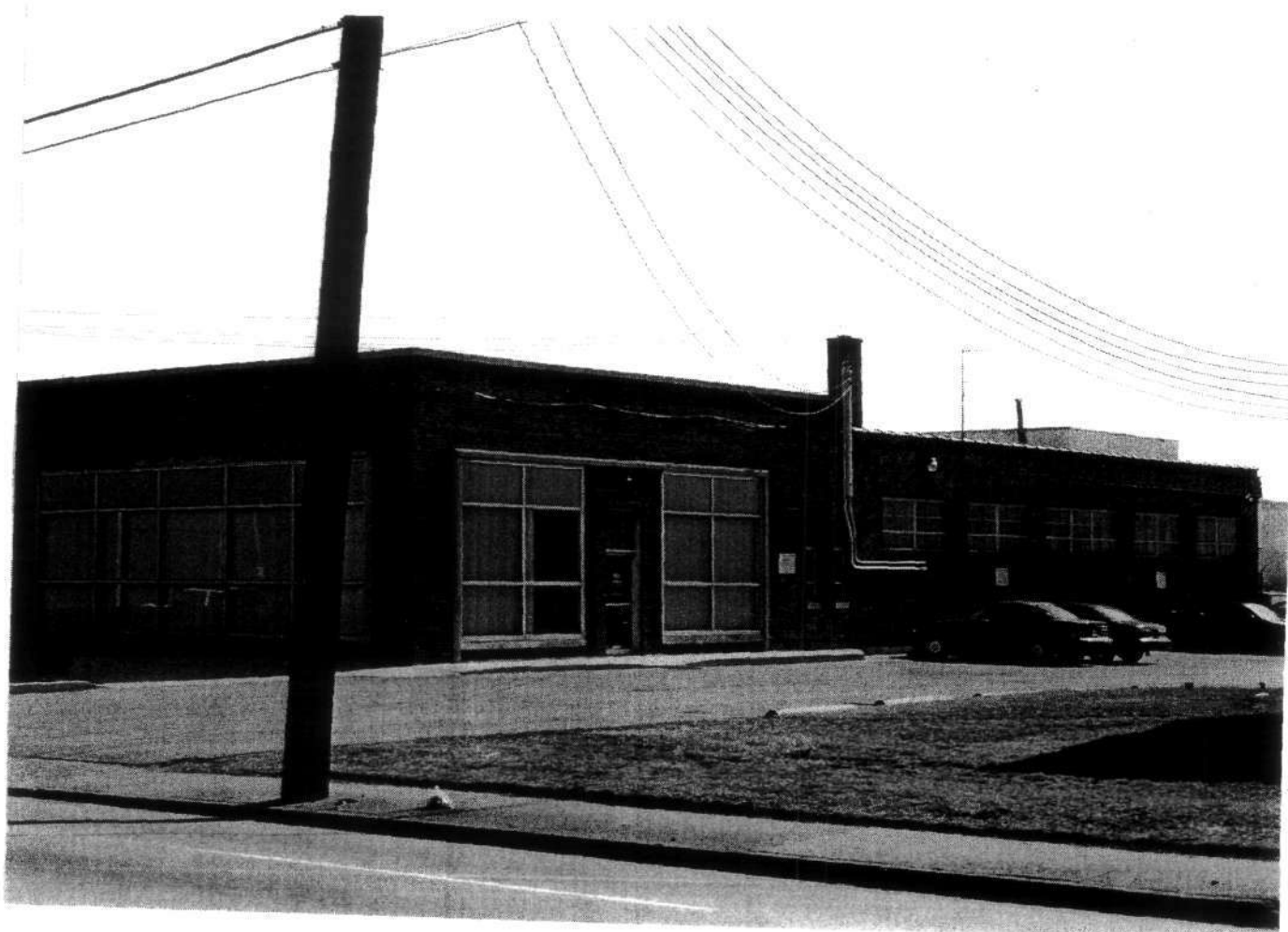
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SCALE NOT TO SCALE	
SOURCE Planimetric Map, Baltimore City Hall, Property Location Division	

B-3637



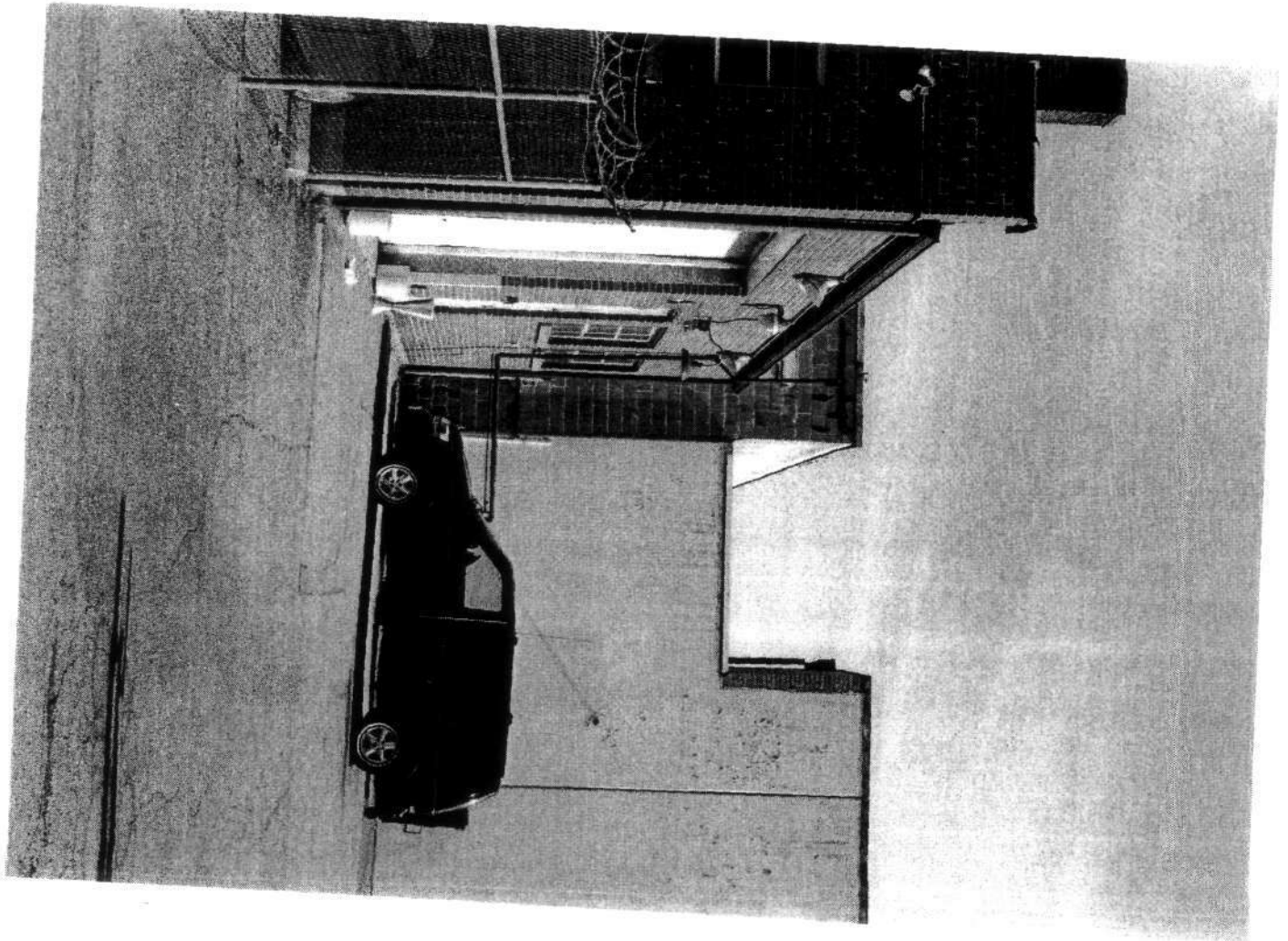
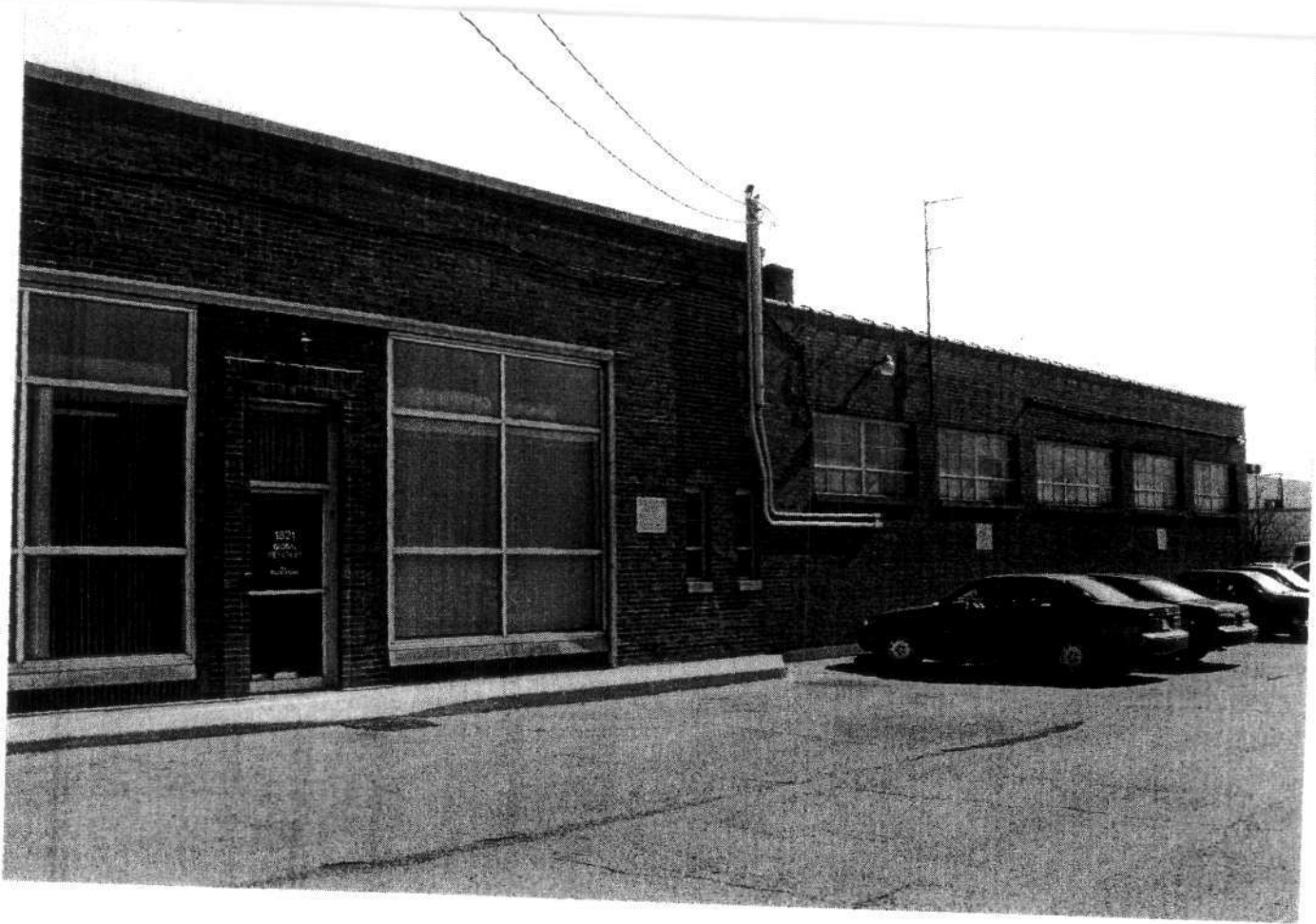
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